

## JURISTAC SOLIDARITY ACT:

### BILL TO SUPPORT THE AMAH MUTSUN TRIBAL BAND AND THE PROTECTION OF JURISTAC TRIBAL LANDS

AUTHOR: Noam Elroi (much of the language and structure of this act comes from Stanford's own Juristac Solidarity Act written by Vance Kaleohano Kahahawai Farrant; Nani Friedman; Sarah Lewis Crable; Taeaam Liu)

DATE SUBMITTED:

ACTION REQUESTED: Majority vote of the Undergraduate Senate.

WHEREAS, UC Santa Cruz sits on unceded land formerly of the Uypi tribe and currently being stewarded and restored by the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2017, the City of Santa Cruz adopted a resolution recognizing the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band as a historic and continuous tribe of the region with ancestral ties to Mission Santa Cruz; and

WHEREAS, Mutsun descendants, today represented by the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, are working diligently to restore their indigenous practices, heal from historical trauma, and regain stewardship of their ancestral lands; and

WHEREAS, the Debt Acquisition Company of America, doing business as Sargent Ranch Management Company, has applied to the County of Santa Clara for a conditional use permit for a proposed sand and gravel mining operation, known as the Sargent Quarry Project, with aggregate processing facilities on approximately 320 acres of Sargent Ranch, an area known as Juristac to the Amah Mutsun; and

WHEREAS, Juristac is the location of numerous ceremonial and sacred sites, comprising a landscape of immense historical, cultural, and spiritual importance to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band; and

WHEREAS, the Amah Mutsun maintain that the proposed mining pits, overburden piles, roads, and processing facilities would irreparably harm Mutsun cultural resources, landscape features, and the spiritual integrity of Juristac; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band has taken a unanimous stand in opposition to the Sargent Quarry Project and is seeking the support of surrounding communities in efforts to protect their sacred grounds; and

WHEREAS, the Juristac area, which forms the southern terminus of the Santa Cruz Mountains, is identified in the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan and other regional habitat connectivity studies as a vital wildlife corridor linking the Santa Cruz Mountains, Gabilan Mountains, and Diablo Range; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project would impact approximately 248 acres of grassland estivation habitat for the California tiger salamander and California red-legged frog, both federally-listed threatened species; and

WHEREAS, the City of Morgan Hill, the City of Santa Cruz, University of San Francisco faculty, California Indian Environmental Alliance, Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield, and many other California and international organizations and individuals, have made statements of support for the Amah Mutsun, the preservation of Juristac as open space in perpetuity, and the denial of the permits for the proposed Sargent Quarry Project.

WHEREAS, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) states, "Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practice, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites [Article 12]." Furthermore, UNDRIP establishes a standard of "free, prior and informed consent" in regard to actions and policies that may affect the lands, territories, and resources of indigenous peoples [Articles 19]; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SUA LEGISLATIVE BODIES:

THAT the Undergraduate Student Union Assembly supports the efforts of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to preserve Sargent Ranch/Juristac as open space in perpetuity and to regain access to their cultural and spiritual sites at Juristac; and

THAT the Undergraduate Student Union Assembly urges the University of California Santa Cruz to support these efforts by the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and will send this resolution with relevant material to the Graduate Student Association, the Faculty Senate, and the Chancellor's office; and

THAT the Undergraduate Student Union Assembly urges the County of Santa Clara to deny the permits for the proposed Sargent Quarry Project.